

Message Text

PAGE 01 STOCKH 03877 161505Z

55

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PER-03 /016 W
----- 037664

R 161451Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8170

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 3877

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, CGEN

SUBJECT: CONSULAR ASSISTANCE

REF: STATE 166039

1. WE WILL REQUIRE A TDY REPLACEMENT FOR HOME LEAVE
OF CHIEF OF CONSULAR SECTION FSO-4 HASSETT.
2. SO THAT HASSETT CAN MAKE TRAVEL PLANS, IT WOULD
BE HELPFUL IF THE DEPARTMENT WOULD NOW APPROVE SENDING
TDY. ALSO, WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE TO HAVE THE
TDY REPLACEMENT HERE FOR 1 SEPTEMBER?
SMITH

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ARA-06

AID-05 NEA-10 EB-07 IO-13 /100 W
----- 048663

R 161500Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8172
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
USMISSION USNATO

USMISSION USUN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 STOCKHOLM 3877

6. ON THE AID FRONT, ALL OF THE OPPOSITION PARTIES HAVE BEEN CRITICAL OF AID TO CUBA (PARTICULARLY FOLLOWING THAT COUNTRY'S INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA), AND IT SEEMS HIGHLY PROBABLE THAT THEY WOULD DISCONTINUE, OR AT LEAST SHARPLY CURTAIL, AID TO THE HAVANA REGIME. A HARDER LOOK AT ALL SWEDISH AID PROGRAMS COULD BE EXPECTED, BUT SINCE ALL OF THE PARTIES SUPPORT THE ALLOCATION OF ONE PERCENT OF GNP TO FOREIGN AID, IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT THERE WOULD BE ANY MASSIVE CUTS. THE MODERATE PARTY'S STRONG CRITICISM OF THE MASSIVE ASSISTANCE PROJECT IN NORTH VIETNAM (WHICH IS CURRENTLY PROJECTED TO COST ABOUT \$200 MILLION) HAS NEVER BEEN FULLY SUPPORTED BY THE OTHER PARTIES, AND IS LIKELY TO CONTINUE. WHAT MIGHT DEVELOP WOULD BE THE APPLICATION OF LESS SHARP IDEOLOGICAL CRITERIA IN SELECTING AID RECIPIENTS, AND COUNTRIES HERETOFORE CONSIDERED UNACCEPTABLE AS AID RECIPIENTS BY THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS BECAUSE OF ALLEGED RIGHTWING TENDENCIES,
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MIGHT NOW QUALIFY.

7. IN THE U.N. AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL FORA, SWEDEN WOULD BE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE TO PLACE EMPHASIS ON ITS TIES WITH THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, WITH WHICH IT ENJOYS A HIGH PRESTIGE, BUT PROBABLY NOT SO DOGMATICALLY AS WITH A SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT. A BOURGEOIS GOVERNMENT WOULD PRESUMABLY BE MORE SKEPTICAL OF SWEDISH SUPPORT FOR THE HARSH RHETORIC TOWARDS THE INDUSTRIAL WORLD THAT HAS BEEN SO CHARACTERISTIC OF MEETINGS OF NON-ALIGNED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. IN ADDITION TO SWEDEN'S CHANGED STAND ON THE MID-EAST QUESTION AT THE UNSC, THE NEW GOVERNMENT WOULD BE MORE INCLINED TO REJECT THE "STREAMROLLER TACTICS) AT THE U.N. OF THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES. EVEN THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT HAS STRONGLY OPPOSED EFFORTS IN THE UNGA TO OUST ISRAEL FROM THAT BODY OR TO BRAND ZIONISM AS RACISM, AND A NEW GOVERNMENT WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY TAKE AN EVEN MORE CRITICAL LINE TOWARDS SUCH IRRESPONSIBLE RESOLUTIONS.

8. THE DEPARTURE FROM THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT OF SUCH STRONG IDEOLOGUES AS COMMERCE MINISTER CARL LIDBOM, AID MINISTER GERTRUD SIGURDSEN, STATE SECRETARY LENNART KLACKENBERG AND THE PRIME MINISTER'S AIDE

PIERRE SCHORI, WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE AN IMPACT ON THE NEW GOVERNMENT'S PERCEPTION OF ITS RELATIONS WITH THE THIRD WORLD AND THE ENTIRE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE. WITHOUT A POWERFUL LEFTWING IN ITS RANKS TO COPE WITH, THE NEW GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE ABLE TO PURSUE A MORE BALANCED COURSE IN THIRD WORLD ISSUES. PRESUMABLY SOME OF THE MORE EXTREME MEASURES WHICH SWEDEN HAS SUPPORTED AT UNCTAD AND ELSEWHERE, SUCH AS A MORATORIUM ON THE DEBTS OF DEVELOPING NATIONS AND MORE STRINGENT CONTROLS ON MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES, ETC., WOULD BE ABANDONED BY THE MORE MODERATE TEAM WHICH WOULD TAKE OVER THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. THIS IN TURN WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY ENHANCE SWEDEN'S REPUTATION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS COMMUNITY INCLUDING POTENTIAL AMERICAN INVESTORS IN SWEDEN.

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9. SINCE U.S.-SWEDISH BILATERAL RELATIONS ARE CURRENTLY GOOD, NO FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE COULD BE EXPECTED IN OUR BILATERAL TIES WITH THE SWEDES. NEVERTHELESS, RELATIONS MIGHT BE SOMEWHAT MORE EASY WITH A BOURGEOIS GOVERNMENT, WHICH WOULD LACK THE IDEOLOGICAL IMPERATIVES INHERENT IN A SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT. CERTAINLY THERE WOULD BE A CURTAILMENT OF THE CRITICAL RHETORIC TOWARDS OTHER NATIONS, WHICH HAS BEEN AN IRRITATION IN SWEDEN'S RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER INDUSTRIAL NATIONS. A LESSENING OF THE "CONSCIENCE OF THE WORLD" SYNDROME MIGHT ALSO BE APPARENT.

10. IT IS DIFFICULT TO PREDICT WHO WOULD BE FOREIGN MINISTER, SINCE THE OPPOSITION PARTIES HAVE STEADFASTLY DECLINED TO SPECULATE ON WHO WOULD GET WHAT PORTFOLIOS, PREFERRING TO KEEP ALL OPTIONS OPEN. AS MENTIONED ABOVE, ONE POSSIBILITY WOULD BE LIBERAL LEADER AHLMARK. ANOTHER POSSIBILITY FROM THE LIBERALS WOULD BE OLLA ULSTEN, THE PARTY'S VICE CHAIRMAN. SHOULD THE CENTER, AS THE LARGEST PARTY, INSIST ON THE FOREIGN MINISTERSHIP IN ADDITION TO THE PRIMEMINISTERSHIP (IT IS GENERALLY ASSUMED THAT PARTY LEADER FALLDIN WILL BE THE PRIME MINISTER OF ANY OPPOSITION GOVERNMENT), A STRONG CANDIDATE WOULD BE DEPUTY PARTY CHAIRMAN JOHANNES ANTONSSON, A MEMBER OF THE RIKSDAG FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE. THERE IS ALSO THE POSSIBILITY THAT A PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMAT, RATHER THAN A POLITICIAN, MIGHT BE NAMED FOREIGN MINISTER; IN SUCH A CASE, SWEDEN'S OUTGOING AMBASSADOR TO THE U.N. AND NEW AMBASSADOR TO LONDON, OLOF RYDBECK, WOULD BE A POSSIBILITY. THE PARTY MOST OPPOSED TO THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT'S FOREIGN POLICY, THE CONSERVATIVE MODERATE PARTY, SEEMS THE LEAST LIKELY TO RECEIVE THE POST OF

FOREIGN MINISTER, DUE TO THE OTHER PARTIES' SUSPICIONS
THAT THE MODERATES MIGHT DEPART TOO FAR FROM THE
"CONSENSUS" FOREIGN POLICY THAT SWEDEN HAS FOLLOWED IN
RECENT YEARS.

11. BUT REGARDLESS OF THE IDENTITY OF THE FOREIGN
MINISTER, A CHANGE IN POWER IN SWEDEN WOULD NOT MEAN
A FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE IN SWEDISH FOREIGN POLICY,
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ALTHOUGH AS DESCRIBED ABOVE, THERE WOULD BE IMPORTANT
SHIFTS IN EMPHASIS. NOR, EXCEPT FOR A SOMEWHAT
SMOOTHER BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP, WOULD U.S.-SWEDISH
RELATIONS BE MATERIALLY AFFECTED.
SMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 15 SEP 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SITUATION, ELECTION FORECASTS, NATIONAL ELECTIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STOCKH03877
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D760276-0404
From: STOCKHOLM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197607109/baaaervd.tel
Line Count: 183
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <20 AUG 2004 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONSULAR ASSISTANCE
TAGS: PINT, SW
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006